

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Comprehensive TB  
5       Elimination Act of 2021”.

6       **SEC. 2. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING AND ELIMI-**  
7       **NATING TUBERCULOSIS.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 317E of the Public  
9       Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–6) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-  
3 serting the following:

4 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(2) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this  
7 subsection, the Secretary may give priority to State  
8 health departments proposing to focus on the pre-  
9 vention, control, and elimination of tuberculosis in  
10 high-risk populations, including foreign-born, home-  
11 less, incarcerated, HIV-tuberculosis coinfectd, and  
12 medically underserved populations.”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (C), by redesignig-  
16 nating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)  
17 and (II), respectively, and adjusting the  
18 margins accordingly; and

19 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
20 (A) through (F) as clauses (i) through (vi),  
21 respectively, and adjusting the margins ac-  
22 cordingly;

23 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
24 through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H),

1           respectively, and adjusting the margins accord-  
2           ingly;

3           (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
4           (A), as so redesignated, by striking “With re-  
5           spect to” and inserting the following:

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to”;

7           (D) by striking subparagraph (B), as so  
8           redesignated, and inserting the following:

9           “(B) Research, investigations, experiments,  
10          demonstrations, and studies in the health  
11          sciences that are related to—

12               “(i) the development of new tools, in-  
13               cluding vaccines and antimicrobial drugs,  
14               to prevent and treat tuberculosis;

15               “(ii) novel therapeutics for special  
16               populations, including pediatric popu-  
17               lations, immunosuppressed individuals, and  
18               pregnant women;

19               “(iii) the development or testing of  
20               medical diagnostics to detect tuberculosis;

21               “(iv) research to address the epidemi-  
22               ology, mechanisms, and pathogenesis of tu-  
23               berculosis;

24               “(v) public health interventions to ad-  
25               dress the prevention, treatment, and con-

trol of tuberculosis, such as directly observed therapy and non-pharmaceutical intervention;

“(vi) methods to enhance detection and response to outbreaks of tuberculosis, including multidrug resistant tuberculosis; and

“(vii) other relevant research areas.”;

(E) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated—

(i) by redesignating clause (vi), as so redesignated, as clause (vii);

(ii) in clause (v), as so redesignated,  
by striking “; and” and inserting “;” and

(iii) by inserting after clause (v), as so redesignated, the following:

“(vi) the intensification of efforts to prevent, detect, and treat latent tuberculosis; and”;

(F) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by inserting before the period the following: “, including public awareness campaigns and development of educational, risk, and media communications, using materials in languages appropriate to target audiences”;

1 (G) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignig-  
2 nated, by striking “paragraphs (1) through  
3 (4)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) through  
4 (D)”; and

5 (H) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(2) SELECTION.—In carrying out the activities  
7 described in paragraph (1), the Secretary—

8 “(A) is encouraged to give priority to pro-  
9 grammatically relevant research so that new  
10 tools can be utilized in public health practice;  
11 and

12 “(B) may seek input from the Biomedical  
13 Advanced Research and Development Authority  
14 in identifying novel candidates to utilize in the  
15 efforts under this subsection to prevent, diag-  
16 nose, and control tuberculosis.”;

17 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) through (h)  
18 as subsections (d) through (i), respectively;

19 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
20 lowing—

21 “(c) GRANTS FOR COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS AND  
22 SERVICES FOR PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREAT-  
23 MENT.—

24 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary, acting through  
25 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Serv-

1       ices Administration, may award grants to State and  
2       local governments, territories, Indian Tribes, Tribal  
3       organizations, urban Indian health organizations,  
4       health service providers to Indian Tribes, Native Ha-  
5       waiian health organizations, community health cen-  
6       ters, and Federally qualified health centers for co-  
7       ordinating the programs and services of such entities  
8       to ensure timely and appropriate prevention, risk-  
9       based screening, diagnosis, and treatment of latent  
10      and active tuberculosis.

11           “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
12      ‘Federally qualified health center’ has the meaning  
13      given to such term in section 1861(aa) of the Social  
14      Security Act.”;

15           (5) in subsections (d), (e), and (f), as so redes-  
16      ignated, by striking “(a) or (b)” each place it ap-  
17      pears and inserting “(a), (b), or (c)”;

18           (6) in subsection (g)(4), as so redesignated, by  
19      adding at the end the following:

20           “(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Sec-  
21      retary is encouraged to make the reports under  
22      subparagraph (A), or other publications rel-  
23      evant to domestic tuberculosis surveillance, pub-  
24      licly available on the internet website of the  
25      Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and

1 to disseminate such information to stake-  
2 holders.”;

3 (7) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by striking “research into new  
6 tools under subsection (b)(2)” and insert-  
7 ing “the research, investigations, experi-  
8 ments, demonstrations, and studies in  
9 health science under subsection (b)(1)(B)”;  
10 and

11 (ii) by inserting “ensuring access to  
12 the products developed as a result of such  
13 research, investigations, experiments, dem-  
14 onstrations, and studies and” after “advice  
15 regarding”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (3)—

17 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
18 (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and  
19 (F), respectively; and

20 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
21 (C) the following:

22 “(D) members of the Biomedical Advanced  
23 Research and Development Authority;”; and

24 (8) in subsection (i)(1)(A), as so redesignated,  
25 by striking “\$200,000,000” and all that follows

1 through the period and inserting “\$142,200,000 for  
2 fiscal year 2022, \$195,700,000 for fiscal year 2023,  
3 \$225,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, \$236,250,000 for  
4 fiscal year 2025, \$248,062,500 for fiscal year 2026,  
5 and \$260,465,625 for fiscal year 2027.”.

6 (b) NIH TUBERCULOSIS ACTIVITIES.—Section  
7 424C(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 285b–7c(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and in-  
9 serting the following:

10 “(1) enhancing basic, clinical, and operational  
11 research on tuberculosis, including with respect to—

12 “(A) drug-resistant tuberculosis;

13 “(B) infection with tuberculosis and la-  
14 tency and progression of tuberculosis; and

15 “(C) pediatric tuberculosis;”.

16 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDIES.**

17 (a) TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION  
18 STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enact-  
19 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
20 States shall issue a report on the coordination of efforts  
21 in the United States to—

22 (1) prevent, control, and eliminate tuberculosis;  
23 and

24 (2) implement the activities under section 317E  
25 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–



1       6), as amended by this Act, and the National Action  
2       Plan for Combating Multidrug-Resistant Tuber-  
3       culosis, issued in December 2015.

4       (b) STUDY ON TUBERCULOSIS ACTIVITIES.—Not  
5 later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this  
6 Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall  
7 issue to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
8 Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and  
9 Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on  
10 the coordination of activities between the Food and Drug  
11 Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and  
12 Prevention with respect to—

13           (1) shortages of critical tuberculosis drugs in  
14       the United States;

15           (2) efforts to increase the availability of pedi-  
16       atric tuberculosis drug formulations in the United  
17       States;

18           (3) mitigating the cost of tuberculosis drugs for  
19       States, including efforts to ensure States have timely  
20       access to treatments for individuals with tuber-  
21       culosis; and

22           (4) consideration for the introduction in the  
23       United States of pediatric tuberculosis drug formu-  
24       lations that are available in foreign countries.